

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION****State Capitol, Room 113****Sacramento, CA****Minutes of Meeting****February 5, 2004****COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Nancy E. McFadden, Chair
Thomas Calderon
Teresa P. Hughes
Vicki Marti
Lynn Schenk

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director
Myrna Allen, R.N.
Enid Barnes
Theresa Bueno
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Vanessa Guerrero
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer
Donald Wooten, Ph.D.

COMMISSIONER ABSENT

Diane M. Griffiths
Michael R. Yamaki

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Chantele Denny, Department of Finance
Benjamin Thomas, Department of Health Services

I. Call to Order

The open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) on February 5, 2004 was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Nancy McFadden. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January 22, 2004 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, reported that Children's Hospital Los Angeles had submitted a request to appear before the Commission in closed session and that the representative is present and prepared to appear at this meeting. He recommended that the Commission approve the request to appear in closed session at this meeting.

Commissioner Calderon moved and Commissioner Schenk seconded; and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the appearance of the representative of Children's Hospital Los Angeles in closed session at this meeting as recommended by the Executive Director.

Mr. Berger updated the Commission on CMAC's website stating that everyone on the CMAC mailing lists has been informed that they may access copies of the notices and minutes on CMAC's website at www.cmac.ca.gov. He further stated that CMAC staff has offered them the option of receiving the notices either by email or hard copy. About half of the people that have responded to date have indicated that they would prefer email over the hard copy. He pointed out that the deadline to respond to the survey is prior to the next Commission meeting on February 26, 2004, at which time the Executive Director expects to have a more complete report.

Keith Berger indicated that several Commissioners had requested additional information regarding the new nurse-staffing ratios. He informed the Commission that CMAC has been in contact with the Department of Health Services (DHS), Licensing and Certification Division, and that they have agreed to appear before the Commission on February 26, 2004, to provide the Commission with an update on this matter. CMAC staff will notice this item on the following meeting notices.

Commissioner Calderon remarked that he had spoken with a California Nurse Association lobbyist who had informed him that they are working with the hospitals regarding implementation of the nurse-staffing ratios.

Mr. Berger reported that Stan Rosenstein had mentioned that the Medi-Cal reform stakeholder meetings were starting and that the initial overview meeting took place in Sacramento on January 26. It was well attended. CMAC staff did attend the meeting and copies of the slides that were used at the presentation are available for review. It was Mr. Berger's understanding that there was a second overview meeting on February 4, 2004 in Los Angeles. CMAC staff was unable to attend or to listen in on that meeting.

The next step after these meetings is to set up work groups throughout the state that will address more specific issues and proposals and provide feedback to the state to assist in its Medi-Cal reform development efforts.

The work groups that we are aware of relate to eligibility issues, with benefits and beneficiary cost-sharing issues, and a third on Managed Care. The managed care workgroup will

be attended by CMAC staff. CMAC will be monitoring those issues as well as continuing to work with DHS as the reform proposals become clearer over time.

In concluding his report, the Executive Director indicated that there is an updated Legislative Report. He further commented that in the past CMAC has had a Legislative Report that included many bills that were of interest but not directly relevant to CMAC's programs. He stated that staff is going to try to keep the report a bit more streamlined in the future.

IV. Medi-Cal Managed Care Activities

Mr. Berger indicated that there are 12 managed care amendments before the Commission for action today in closed session. He further indicated that CMAC staff is still working with DHS on another 15 amendments that will be before the Commission for action in March.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no additional comments from the public, Chair Nancy McFadden then recessed the open session at 10:10 a.m. Chair McFadden opened the closed session at 10:12 a.m. Chair McFadden adjourned the closed session at 11:28 p.m. The Commission reconvened in open session. Chair McFadden announced that the Commission had taken action on managed care contract amendments in closed session. There being no further business, Chair McFadden adjourned the open session at 11:28 a.m.